



ST THOMAS'S SCHOOL
KOHIMARAMA. AUCKLAND

Newsletter

1 October 2021

COVID-19 Alert Level 4 – Community Communication #7

Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whanau,

As we come to the close of Term 3, I again thank everyone for their patience with online learning from home over the past weeks. It will no doubt be a relief to parents to be able to let their children have some down time away from screens and hopefully get out in the outdoors.

To our staff, thank you for embracing online learning and you too have a break from screens and zoom overload.

As a community, we wish to congratulate one of our Year 2 Teachers, Jonathan Drucker, and his wife Sarah on the birth of their first baby this week – exciting times ahead for Jonathan!

Take care everyone and enjoy the holidays.

Michael

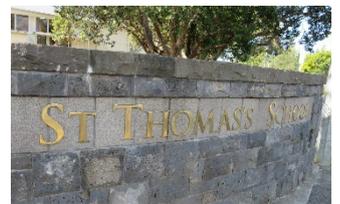
Teacher Only Day

As part of the Accord agreed during the 2019 Collective Agreement negotiations for primary teachers and Principals, every primary school staff member in New Zealand is entitled to two Teacher Only Days in 2021.

These days are to provide teachers and Principals with time to:

- Refresh and deepen their knowledge and practice around the local curriculum (within the context of the removal of national standards)
- Strengthen their understanding of the use of assessment tools for learning and teaching
- Respond to the recommendations of the education work programme in the Curriculum, Progress and Achievement (CPA) Report
- Familiarise themselves with curriculum work changes that will become available over the term of the collective agreements

As indicated in our school calendar from the beginning of the year, the second of these teacher only days is scheduled for week two of Term Four on Tue October 26. This is the Tuesday after the Labour Day public holiday on Monday 25th. The timing of this day is unfortunate as it is another day when students will not be at school. However, it is a legal requirement as embedded in the collective agreement.



Gatherings at Alert Level 2

Any event or activity that brings people on to the school site who are not there for education purposes, including students, parents and caregivers heightens the risk of introducing Covid-19 into our school community. The Ministry of Education have advised schools to treat the running of any large programmes with strong caution. Especially if there are large numbers of students (and parents/caregivers) involved at the same time and/or indoor space. They recommend that these types of events are **deferred** until schools return to Alert Level 1. With that in mind we will only hold assemblies and other large gatherings when we are back in school and have a period of time at Alert Level 1.

School Grounds Closed During Term Break

During the upcoming 2 week school holiday break, the grounds will remain closed as there are trucks and diggers on site repairing the drainage system and replacing some of the trees near the senior block.

Next Communication

Friday October 15 will be our next newsletter. This is the Friday before the last weekend of the school holidays. In that newsletter we will update our community on plans for returning to school with regards to any new Covid-19 developments which take place during the break.